



Claim objections addressed

Claims 144-173 were objected to because they are dependent upon a rejected independent base claim. It is believed that the Terminal Disclaimer being filed herewith will eliminate the rejection of base claim 143 and consequently the objection of claims 144-173.

C. Allowable subject matter

It is noted that the Office Action states that claims 143-173 are allowable because the prior art of record does not teach or reasonably suggest a method of manipulating a target nucleic acid contained in a sample as recited in claim 143.

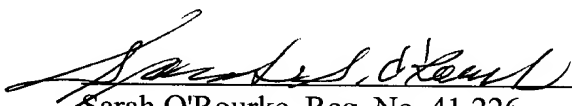
CONCLUSIONS

It is believed that all the claims now pending in this patent application are allowable. Therefore, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner reconsider the claims and grant an early allowance. If any questions or issues remain to be resolved, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below. The fee required for filing a Terminal Disclaimer accompanies this response. Should any additional fee be required, please charge Deposit Account No. 50-1123.

Respectfully submitted,

Date

Feb. 12, 2003


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